

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3912
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2001
EXCAVATION OF HISTORICAL SITES IN TAMIL NADU
P.D. ELANGO VAN

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the ASI to excavate the Iron Age burial sites (Megalithic) and early historic sites in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) whether ASI has not taken any steps so far to excavate any of the Megalithic burial sites in Tamil Nadu;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the ASI has published any excavation report on the excavation of Megalithic burial sites after Sanur excavations;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the disposal of the artefacts brought to light during Sanur excavations and other megalithic excavations?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR)

(a) to (e) Details are given in annexure.

(f) The material from Sanur is available in the Central Antiquity Collection, Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi and those from the Megalithic Sites of Amirthamangalam, Kunnattur, Perur, T. Kallupatti, Mottur, Kambaramedu and Auroville are stored in the Chennai Circle office of ASI.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA PARLIAMENT UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3912 FOR 22.3.2 RESPECT OF PARTS (A) to (E)

The Megalithic monuments and urn-burials which inter alia represent the early Historical period in south India were noticed quite early and dealt with in detail by James Fergusson in 1872. Alexander Rea of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) conducted excavation at Adichannallur in Tinnevely District between 1889 and 1905 and at Perumbair from 1904 to 1908. Later, several ASI and other archaeologists explored extensively in Tamil Nadu. The ASI took up in right earnest the scientific exploration of the Megalithic sites particularly in south India after 1944. The ASI has since excavated between 1950 and 1984-85 ten Megalithic sites in Tamil Nadu and the details thereof are tabulated below:

Sl.No. Name of site District Year(s) of excavation Published in IAR / AI

1. Sanur Chingleput 1950 and 1952 AI, 15
2. Amirthamangalam Chingleput 1954-55 IAR 1954-55 & AI, 22
3. Kunnattur Chingleput 1955-56, 1956-57 IAR 1955-56, 1956-57 & 1957-58
& 1957-58
4. Paiyampalli North Arcot 1964-65 & 1967-68 IAR 1964-65 & 1967-68
5. Perur Coimbatore 1970-71 IAR 1970-71
6. Sittannavasal Pudukkottai 1975-76 IAR 1975-76 AI, 4;
- 7 T. Kallupatti Madurai 1976-77 & 1979-80 IAR 1976-77 & 1979-80

8. Mottur North Arcot 1978-79 IAR 1978-79
9. Kambaramedu Thanjavur 1982-83 IAR 1982-83
10. Auroville South Arcot 1984-85 IAR 1984-85

Note:

+ - IAR (Indian Archaeology - A Review)

++ - AI (Ancient India)